

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /082 W

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R 260932Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2671

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 1382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LA

SUBJ: ROYAL AIR LAO TO OPEN COMMERCIAL AIR ROUTE TO
CANTON AND KUALA LUMPUR

REF: VIENTIANE A-122 (1974)

1. ROYAL AIR LAO (RAL), THE FLAG CARRIER OF THE KINGDOM OF LAOS, WILL BEGIN TWICE WEEKLY PASSENGER FLIGHTS TO CANTON, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ON FEB. 28 ACCORDING TO A REPORT PUBLISHED HERE. RAL WILL USE ITS TWIN-JET CARAVELLE, LEASED FROM AIR FRANCE FOR ONE FRANC PER YEAR, TO FLY THE ROUTE. THE REPORT SAID ABOUT 20 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WOULD BE ABOARD THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT. A TEST FLIGHT WAS FLOWN ON FEB. 21 TO IRON OUT FINAL TECHNICAL DETAILS. FLIGHT IS FRUITION OF LAO-PRC AIR AGREEMENT SIGNED IN PEKING, AUG 1974.

2. RAL'S FLIGHT WILL BE FIRST INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE INTO CANTON. IT WILL BE AN EXTENSION OF THE KUALA LUMPUR-VTE FLIGHT WHICH BEGINS OPERATING WEDNESDAY, 26 FEB. WEDNESDAY'S FLIGHT WILL BE ROUTED: VTE-CANTON-
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VTE-KUALA LUMPUR-VTE, WHILE FRIDAYS IT WILL GO FIRST

TO KUALA LUMPUR.

3. AIRLINE CONTINUES TO FLY VTE-HANOI ROUTE TWICE A WEEK USING DC-4, DESPITE CONSISTENTLY LOW PATRONAGE - ONE TO 10 PASSENGERS PER FLIGHT. SOVIET AIRLINE AEROFLOT ALSO FLIES ROUTE, BUT AS A CONTINUATION OF ITS BIWEEKLY MOSCOW-HANOI FLIGHT. OTHER RAL INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS INCLUDE VTE-HONG KONG ON TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS - BOTH ROUTES USE THE CARAVELLE: AND VTE-SAIGON-PHNOM PENH ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS USING A DC-4.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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